

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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DAKAR FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, FR, ILO, XF
SUBJECT: THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND THE ILO

1. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH LABATT ON 26 JAN.
JEAN CLAUDE FORTUIT, QUAI OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ILO
MATTERS, RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND
THE ILO TO ASK THE "PERSONAL" QUESTION (AS HE PUT IT)
WHETHER THE USG IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THE RESULT
OF "CLOSING THE BOOK" ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION OR
IS EQUALLY OR EVEN MORE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THIS
RESULT THROUGH PROMINENT US ACTION. WHAT PROMPTED
HIM, HE SAID, TO ASK THIS QUESTION WAS HIS BELIEF
THAT FRANCE COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN HANDLING THIS
MATTER IN GENEVA IF THE US TOOK A LOW PROFILE AND LET
THE FRENCH HANDLE IT IN THEIR OWN WAY.

2. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS ACTING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS,
HE POINTED OUT THAT IN DIPLOMACY SOMETIMES IT IS THE
RESULT THAT COUNTS AND IN OTHER TIMES IT IS THE MANNER
IN WHICH THE RESULT IS PURSUED. IN THIS PARTICULAR
CASE, THE THOUGHT HAD OCCURRED TO HIM THAT PERHAPS
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INTERNAL US POLITICS WERE COMPELLING USG NOT ONLY TO
SEEK THE DESIRED RESULT OF "CLOSING THE BOOK" BUT
ALSO TO DO SO THROUGH A US INITIATIVE AND ACTION.

3. LABATT OFFERED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT WHAT REALLY
MATTERED IN THIS INSTANCE WAS TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON
THE ISRAELI QUESTION BY HAVING THE GB ACCEPT THE DG'S

REPORT AND THUS RESTORE SOME RESPECT FOR "DUE PROCESS."
THIS OBVIOUSLY IS A MATTER WHICH NOT ONLY SHOULD
CONCERN EQUALLY ALL PERMANENT GB MEMBERS BUT ALSO
ONE THAT REQUIRES THEIR JOINT AND DETERMINED EFFORTS.

4. FROM SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION IT APPEARS THAT FORTUIT'S QUESTION WAS STIMULATED BY THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WERE HELD IN THE QUAI ON 24 JANUARY, THE DAY ON WHICH, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA, FROMENT LAURENT, WAS CALLED IN FOR CONSULTATIONS. LAURENT APPARENTLY REPORTED THAT THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION WAS STILL A VERY DELICATE MATTER, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE ARAB DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE 1974 RESOLUTION OPERATIVE AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE EMPLOYERS GROUP, AND TO A LESSER EXTEND THAT OF THE WORKERS. FORTUIT GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT LAURENT WAS NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME, ESPECIALLY IF THE BALL WERE TO BE CARRIED EXCLUSIVELY OR TOO PROMINENTLY BY USG.

5. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENCOURAGE THE FRENCH TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC IDEAS ON HOW THEY MAY GO ABOUT "CLOSING THE BOOK" BY ASSURING THEM THAT INDEED IT IS THE RESULT THAT COUNTS. THE DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

RUSH

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